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# Newsletter

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James V. Schoster - President; Eric (Rick) M. Mills - President Elect, Robin Starr-Chichester - Secretary Treasurer;  
Ronald D. Smith - Newsletter Editor

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### How to Contact AVI

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check for \$35 payable to the AVI, should be sent to:

Dr. Robin M. Starr; Secretary Treasurer, AVI;  
31575 Griffin Drive, Conifer, CO 80433  
Phone: 303/674-5231; FAX: 303/674-9717;  
e-mail: starrchi@earthlink.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/avi.htm>

Dr. Starr is responsible for distribution of the hardcopy version of the AVI Newsletter.

Newsletter items can be sent to:

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, Newsletter Editor, AVI;  
UI College of Veterinary Medicine; 2001 South  
Lincoln; Urbana, IL 61801.

Phone: 217/333-2449

FAX: 217/333-4628

E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

If you are an AVI member and would like to be on the AVI Newsletter electronic distribution list, send an e-mail message to the Newsletter Editor. Although the electronic version is only an ASCII (text) file, it's faster, searchable, easier to store and retrieve, and environmentally friendly.

Current and past issues of the AVI Newsletter are also available on the Web at:

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/avi.htm>

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Informatics Positions - Univ. Missouri

From: "Allen W. Hahn"  
<hahna@MISSOURI.EDU>

The Department of Health Management and Informatics of the University of Missouri Columbia (MU) seeks three new faculty persons at the Assistant and Associate Professor levels.

Applicants are sought in the field of information sciences related to health care. Candidates with proven track records in funded research are sought. Federally funded research and international collaborations are of primary concern. Candidates who have been published in core journals such as JAMA (Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.), JAVMA (Journal Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.), AJVR (Am. J. Vet. Res.) JAMIA (Jour. Am. Med. Informatics Assoc.), Arch. Family Medicine and similar peer reviewed, archival publications will be most favorably considered. Tenure-track positions are available for researchers who are self-

directed and interested in collaborative work in an expanding and dynamic health care environment.

The new faculty members will work in the Department of Health Management and Informatics and be affiliated with the Center for Health Care Quality. The Department is part of the MU School of Medicine, and offers the Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree in both traditional and executive formats and has been accredited since 1968. A Master of Science in Health Informatics was initiated in the Fall of 1998. The MHA Program is a cooperative program with the College of Business. The Department is fully integrated within a major Health Sciences Center and enjoys a national reputation in health services delivery. In addition, strong collaboration with the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Education and Engineering provide for a truly multidisciplinary environment. The Center for Health Care Quality, a health policy "think tank" in America's heartland, is involved in a range of interdisciplinary education, research,

and demonstration programs to respond to today's challenges in the health care system. The faculty to be hired will participate in the initiative of the MOGAIA Institute. (Missouri Global Access to the Information Age)

MU has had a long history of research in medical information technology since the pioneering work which started in the 1960s, of Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg (currently director of the National Library of Medicine, NIH). MU established the nation's second Medical Center Computer Program in 1962 and the world's first computerized clinical laboratory system in 1965. The Missouri Automated Radiology System (MARS) was developed here, as was the "AI/Rheum" expert system for diagnosis of rheumatic diseases. AI/Rheum remains one of the best-known medical artificial intelligence systems in the world. Today, MU health informatics researchers are active in telemedicine, evidence-based informatics, transAtlantic agenda development, clinical vocabularies, informatics standards, computerized medical records and other clinical applications.

MU (<http://www.missouri.edu>) is the flagship campus of the University of Missouri system (<http://www.system.missouri.edu>) and the

oldest state university west of the Mississippi River. Columbia (<http://www.ci.columbia.mo.us/>), located in the center of Missouri, is the home of three institutions of higher learning and enjoys a rich cultural environment, excellent schools and a high quality of life. Columbia is consistently ranked in the top "Best Places to Live in the Nation" by Money Magazine in its annual survey

Potential applicants should submit their curriculum vitae or resume and a letter of interest to:

Allen W. Hahn, D.V.M., Ph.D., Chair, Selection Committee, Department of Health Management and Informatics, 324 Clark Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211. Email [[hahn@missouri.edu](mailto:hahn@missouri.edu)] Fax [573-882-6158] ; <http://www.hmi.missouri.edu>.

The University of Missouri-Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.

## AVI ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORTS

### AVI Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The Association for Veterinary Informatics annual business meeting was held on July 11, 1999 in the Pelican Room of the Inter-Continental Hotel, New Orleans, LA. The meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm by President Dr. Robin Starr.

President-elect, Dr. James Schoster (WI) discussed the upcoming Richard Talbot Symposium. The program is aimed at the practitioner both at the introductory and experienced level. There will be a total of 18 speakers and 5 posters at this year's session. One of the topics of interest is how to use a computer to benefit a practice.

Dr. Jim Case, secretary-treasurer gave the financial and membership reports for the AVI. He also announced the results of the AVI election. Dr. Rick Mills (VA) was elected president-elect and outgoing president Dr. Robin Starr (CO) was elected secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Al Dorn, chair of the Personal and Professional Development section of the AVMA annual meeting, spoke about his role in AVMA programming and his support of both the Talbot Symposium and informatics in general. It was announced that Dr. Robert Featherston has accepted the appointment of educational chair for the AVI. Dr. Featherston will be responsible for the Talbot Symposium program for the 2000 annual meeting.

Dr. Al Hahn announced an informational session on health information standards to be held July 7, 1999 from 3-6 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
James T. Case DVM, PhD  
AVI Secretary-Treasurer

### AVI Treasurer's Report

As of June 30, 1999, the AVI had \$8763.96 in checking. There are no other accounts currently open. Income and expenses are as listed below.

#### Income and Expenses - Actual vs. Prior Period For All Accounts

	7/1/98- 6/30/99 ACTUAL	7/1/97- 6/30/98 ACTUAL	DOLLAR CHANGE
INCOME			
Income			
Membership Dues	\$ 6,417.00	\$ 7,014.57	\$ (597.57)
	-----	-----	-----
Total Income	\$ 6,417.00	\$ 7,014.57	\$ (597.57)
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,417.00	\$ 7,014.57	\$ (597.57)
EXPENSE			
Expense			
Annual Meeting Costs	\$ 1,276.32	\$ 1,495.08	\$ 218.76
Bank correction	(15.00)	(11.00)	4.00
Equipment	0.00	290.62	290.62
Membership Costs	40.00	0.00	(40.00)
Miscellaneous	283.00	8.00	(275.00)
Newsletter editor support	1,260.00	2,300.00	1,040.00
Postage	1,200.00	2,738.43	1,538.43
Printing - newsletter	749.25	895.48	146.23
Printing - nonnewsletter	27.89	816.65	788.76
Pub. Relations/Marketing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationary	61.02	52.29	(8.73)
	-----	-----	-----
Total Expense	\$ 4,882.48	\$ 8,585.55	\$ 3,703.07
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 4,882.48	\$ 8,585.55	\$ 3,703.07
	-----	-----	-----
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 1,534.52	\$ (1,570.98)	\$ 3,105.50
	=====	=====	=====

## AVI Membership Report 1999

Membership activities during the previous year were as follows: initial mailing of renewal was done in November 1998. An additional mailing was sent out to non-renewed members in April of 1999. A current membership application form was made available on the AVI WWW site at <http://netvet.wustl.edu/avi.htm>. Information about the AVI and membership was also distributed through the AVI-L LISTSERV.

The Secretary-Treasurer did not continue to solicit members through mass mailing in 1998-99. After reaching a peak of 225 members in late 1998, membership renewals lagged.

As of July 6, 1999, the Association has 147 active members. These include 128 Full members, 15 Associate members, and 4 Student members. Foreign membership includes 1 from Australia, 1 from Brazil, 1 from Canada, 1 from Israel, 1 from South Korea and 1 from Sweden. Membership is down from 197 members in July, 1998, a 25.3% decrease. Forty nine new members have joined since July, 1998. Ninety five people who were members in 1998 had not renewed as of July 6, 1999. This represents a **48.2% attrition rate**. As stated last year, it would be important for the AVI leadership to investigate the reasons for the high rate of non renewal in order to maintain ongoing growth in the Association.

Working group affiliation of the members is:

Practice Management Systems	30
Communications and Networking	13
Computerized Patient Records	43
Data and Messaging Standards	7
Computer-Aided Instruction	36
No selection	19

Respectfully submitted,  
James T. Case DVM, Ph.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer

## PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

### **Guide to Medical Applications for Handheld and Palmtop PCs**

Posted to MEDINF-L <MEDINF-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE>  
From: Ralph La Tella  
<R.Latella@CCHS.USYD.EDU.AU>

My name is Ralph La Tella. I am a lecturer with the School of Health Information Management, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney, Australia. My interests are in the field of handheld and palmtop computing in medicine. I have authored a guide to medical computing resources for palmpilot, windows ce, psion, and newton platforms.

This is the first publication of its type to be released anywhere. The guide describes over 200 medical applications for handheld and palmtop PCs. A complete table of contents is available at

<http://themedicalguide.hypermart.net>

I am very interested in collaborating with others interested in developing medical/allied health applications for handheld devices. I ask that those of you on this list that are interested in pursuing research or practical applications in this area of informatics, to kindly email me directly.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

### **Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery Online Journal**

From: taholliday@ucdavis.edu

Hundreds of journals of all types are now published in part or entirely on the Internet. An advantage of this "electronic publication" is that it can substantially reduce publication costs. Another advantage is minimizing the time between submission of papers and their availability to readers. Because of these factors, we have established an electronic journal for veterinary neurology and neurosurgery.

The journal, VNN, consists of the following sections: Critically reviewed scientific papers, Review articles, Continuing education papers, News, announcements, letters, etc. Other sections. Video sections are planned for future publication.

A web site has been established and the journal is available now at <http://www.neurovet.org>

This is a non-profit endeavor, motivated solely by the desire to fill a perceived need. There are still glitches in it and undoubtedly it will be necessary to make many changes in as experience is gained. Possibly it will fail but we feel it is more likely the journal will succeed and

may even serve as a model for other specialties that wish to begin electronic publishing in the future.

Scientific and review papers will be rigorously reviewed to ensure their quality. Toward that end, a Review Board has been recruited to maintain the quality of the material published. Review Board members are listed in the journal. Criteria for publication quality will be equal to or more rigorous than those for AJVR or JACVIM.

Take a look at <http://www.neurovet.org> ; we think you will be favorably impressed with it.

T. A. Holliday, DVM, PhD, Diplom ACVIM  
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Please note that although the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine has been informed of our actions in this venture, VNN has no official affiliation or association with ACVIM. Although Dr. Gregg Kortz is helping me in launching this project at this time, I am solely responsible for all aspects of this undertaking. tah

## NEWS & COMMENTARY

### **CONVINCE Funding of Web Sites: Thank You**

From: Cheryl Dhein <[crd@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:crd@vetmed.wsu.edu)>

The request for proposals for development of Interactive Veterinary Web Sites generated 29 submissions. There is a tremendous amount of creativity, talent and enthusiasm in the veterinary community for using technology in teaching. We wish to thank everyone for their excellent submissions. It was a difficult task to determine which proposals to fund. The following six proposals were selected for funding: (in no order)

- Veterinary Infectious Disease: An Interactive, Problem-based, Comprehensive, Learning Site by Dr. Art Donohue-Rolfe of Tufts
- Clinical Pathology Lessons on the World Wide Web by Dr Joe Spano of Auburn
- "Degenerative Lesions of the Liver" by Dr Dan Harrington of Purdue

- Exploring Clinical Pathology through the Web by Dr Anne Lanevski of the University of Montreal
- Exploring the Abdomen with Ultrasound by Dr. Judith Hudson of Auburn
- Abomasal Displacement and Volvulus Animation Modeling Project by Dr. Susan L. Fubini of Cornell

When the projects are completed the URL's will be posted at the CONVINCe Web site.

Thanks to those who submitted proposals and to the CONVINCe Representatives for making this opportunity known to faculty at their school.

Cheryl Dhein  
president CONVINCe

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### **Net Searchers to Index All 800 Million Pages**

From: Los Angeles Times 08/03/99

Internet search engines such as Excite and Fast are announcing plans to use new technology to index all 800 million Web pages on the Internet.

The search firms are responding to recent criticism following the publishing of studies indicating that most search engines cover a miniscule amount of all Web pages available online. Currently Excite has indexed about 50 million Web pages using programs called spiders. Excite now deploys around 10 spiders to search the Web but will add dozens more, each capable of covering 50 million pages. Critics of the new Excite venture claim that this is nothing more than a public relations gimmick on the part of Excite. A study conducted by the NEC Research Institute also points out that the most advanced search engine can only find 16 percent of all Internet pages, and the pages found are often irrelevant.

### **Netscape's Browser Share Now 25 Percent**

From: PC World Online 08/09/99

Netscape's Navigator browser is continuing to lose ground to Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) according to a new study from WebSideStory, which found that Netscape now holds just 25 percent of the browser market. Just this March Netscape had more than a third of the browser market, but the number of users has dwindled as many are defecting to IE, which the study says has 75.3 percent of the market. Meanwhile Zona Research analyst Clay Rider says Microsoft's 75 percent share is not as impressive as it sounds, given that Windows has more than 90 percent of the market share of desktop users. Zona will publish its own figures on browser usage this week.

## **MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

See the informatics section of NetVet for a more complete and current list of informatics-related activities at:

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/info.htm>

## SUGGESTED READING

### **An Idealized Design ... Companion-Animal Healthcare System**

From: Duane Steward <duane@medg.lcs.mit.edu>

The "Idealized Design of a North American Companion-Animal Healthcare System" booklet is available at:

<http://hahn.lcs.mit.edu/booklet/CAFHC.doc>

## CLOSING BITS

### **Technology for Country Folk**

- LOG ON: Makin a wood stove hotter.
- LOG OFF: Don't add no more wood.
- MONITOR: Keepin an eye on the wood stove.
- DOWNLOAD: Gettin the farwood off the truk.
- MEGA HERTZ: When yer not kerful gettin the farwood.
- FLOPPY DISC: Whatcha git from tryin to carry too much farwood.
- RAM: That thar thing whut splits the farwood.
- HARD DRIVE: Gettin home in the winter time.
- PROMPT: Whut the mail ain't in the winter time.
- WINDOWS: Whut to shut wen it's cold outside.
- SCREEN: Whut to shut wen it's blak fly season.
- BYTE: Whut them dang flys do.
- CHIP: Munchies fer the TV.
- MICRO CHIP: Whut's in the bottom of the munchie bag.
- MODEM: Whut cha did to the hay fields.
- DOT MATRIX: Old Dan Matrix's wife.
- LAP TOP: Whar the kitty sleeps.
- KEYBOARD: Whar ya hang the dang keys.
- SOFTWARE: Them dang plastic forks and knifs.
- MOUSE: Whut eats the grain in the barn.
- MAINFRAME: Holds up the barn roof.
- PORT: Fancy Flatlander wine
- ENTER: Northerner talk fer "C'mon in y'all"
- RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: Wen ya cain't 'member whut ya paid fer the rifle when yore wife asks.
- MOUSE PAD: That hippie talk fer the rat hole.